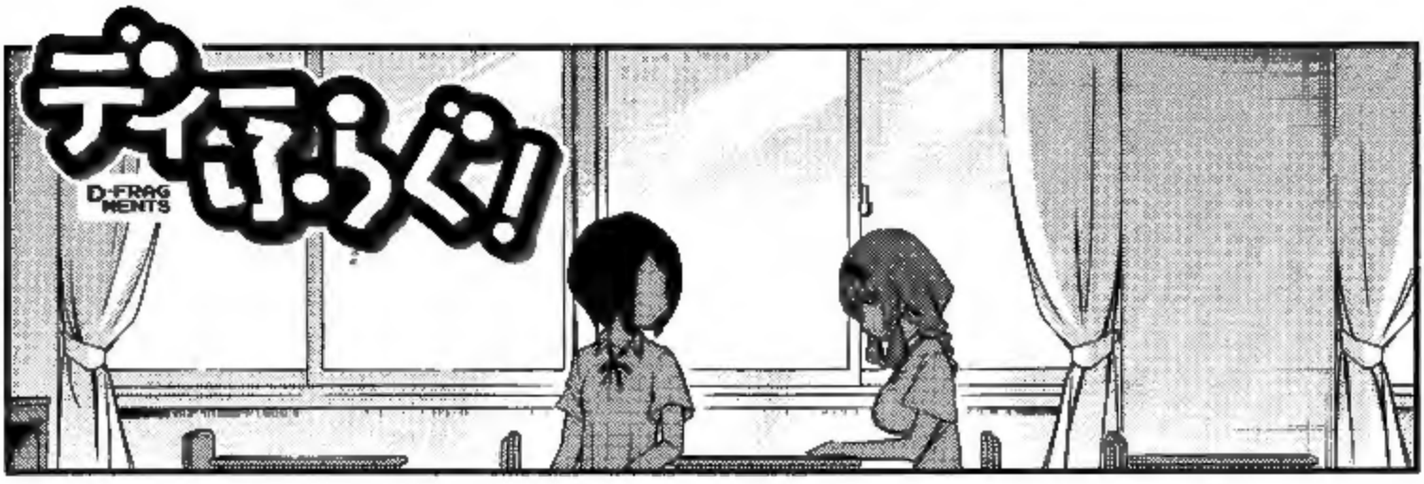
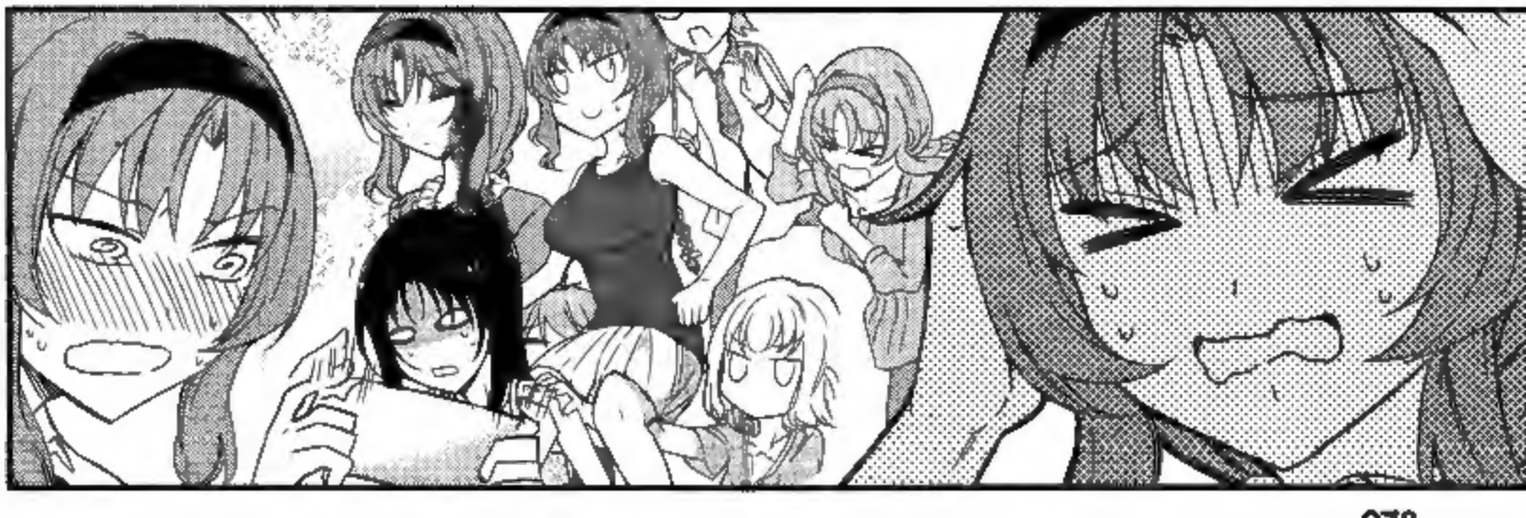


CHAPTER 76: THIS BACKSTORY IS JUST PLAIN FISHY

02



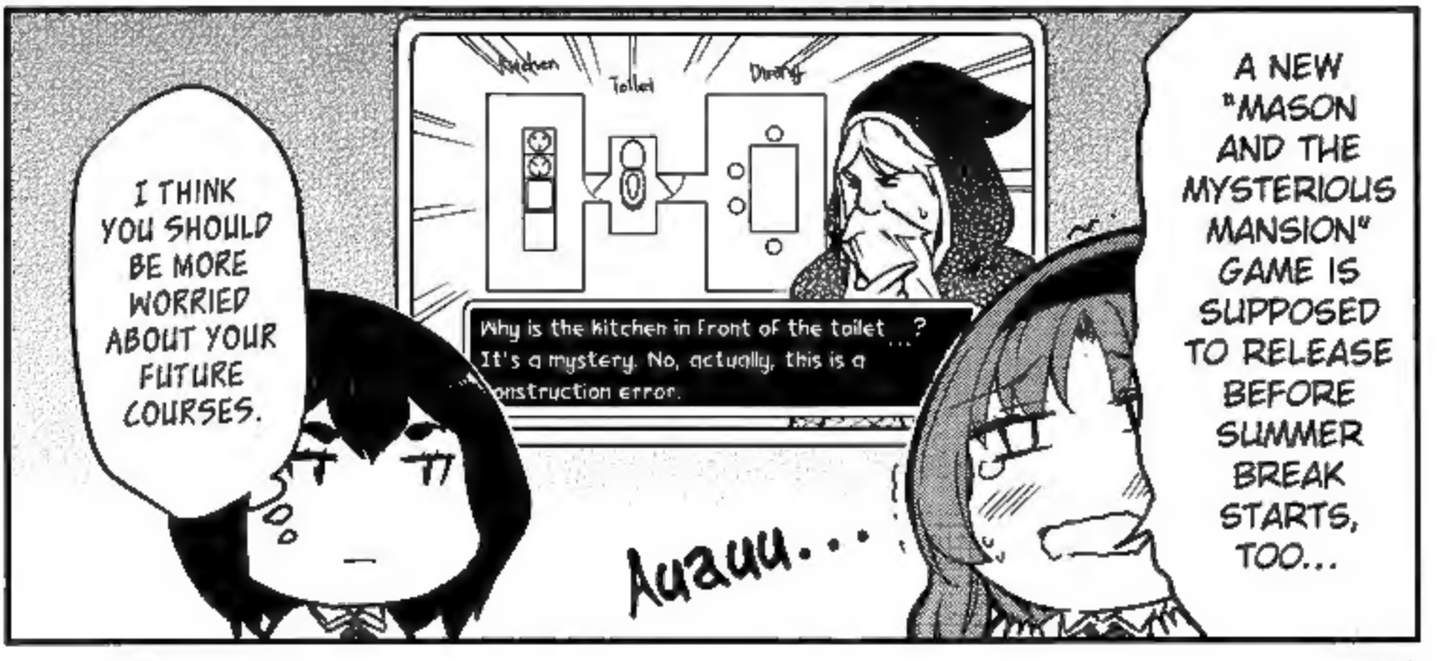
I'VE NEVER STUDIED!

WELL THAT TOOK LONG...
Took about 10 manga volumes...

THIS IS BAD... THIS IS REALLY BAD.
YEP.
AT THIS RATE, I'M NOT GONNA PASS THE FINALS!
I KNOW.
WHAT DO I DO, FUKUNISHI-SAN?!
I HAVEN'T STUDIED AT ALL SINCE I STARTED THE SECOND YEAR!
I KNOW.

EH? IS IT REALLY THAT SERIOUS?
Bad♪
AT THIS RATE, MY MOM'S GONNA TAKE AWAY MY ALLOWANCE!!
WAAAH

04


I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FUTURE COURSES.
Kitchen
Toilet
Dining
Why is the kitchen in front of the toilet...? It's a mystery. No, actually, this is a construction error.
Aaauu...
A NEW "MASON AND THE MYSTERIOUS MANSION" GAME IS SUPPOSED TO RELEASE BEFORE SUMMER BREAK STARTS, TOO...

I'VE ONLY GOT A FEW DAYS TILL FINALS BEGIN,
BUT WE'RE GONNA STUDY TOGETHER, FUKUNISHI-SAN!

I'LL PASS.
WHY!?
WHA?!
'CAUSE WHEN I GRADUATE, I'M GONNA SUCCEED MY FAMILY BUSINESS.
MY ACADEMICS DON'T MATTER.

05

THE FUKUNISHI FAMILY HAS BEEN FAMOUS FOR MAKING POTTERY FOR GENERATIONS. AND SO, I'VE DEVOTED MYSELF INTO INHERITING THE TECHNIQUE DAY BY DAY.
WAIT!
THAT'S WHY MY FAMILY TELLS ME TO FOCUS LESS ON MY ACADEMICS AND MORE ON POLISHING MY TECHNIQUE.
FUKUNISHI-SAN, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF THIS!

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
DON'T JUST START YOUR IMAGE TRAINING, FUKUNISHI-SAN!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DO THIS BEFORE IN ALL THE TIME I'VE BEEN WITH YOU, BUT COME ON, FUKUNISHI-SAN!

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
FUKU-NISHI-SAN!!

06

BY THE WAY, TAKAO, SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN SO GOOD AT TSUKKOMI?
I...I-I-IT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I HAVEN'T STUDIED IN A LONG TIME! IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ANYONE ELSE'S FAULT!
WHY'RE YOU SHYING AWAY?

SHRUG
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT BEFORE.
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND, FUKUNISHI-SAN!!

I'LL STUDY WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
EH?

VAGUE...
I think I remember this one guy who Takao would hang out with. He'd never shut up with his tsukkomis...
...ALRIGHT, FINE.
CLATTER

I'M SURE THEY'RE STUDYING RIGHT NOW!
BUT THEY'RE THE WEIRDOS FROM THE GAME CREATION CLUB, RIGHT?
(TEMPORARY) CLUB! DON'T GROUP THEIR CLUB WITH MINE!
Hmm!

I-IT'S FINE!
YOU SHOULD STOP!!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF STUDYING WITH THE GIRLS WHO CAUSED YOUR GRADE PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST PLACE, ARE YOU...?

I...IT'S FINE. THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE I CAN ASK.
GULP...

YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH THEM IN STUDYING?
UGH.
Student council president
Perfect studies
UGH.
Genius?
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT IT KINDA FEELS LIKE THEY'RE FILLED WITH TALENTED PEOPLE.
One of 'em's the student council president, too.

I CAN'T SAY THAT TO HER FACE.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GONNA BE STUDYING.
GOOD LUCK.

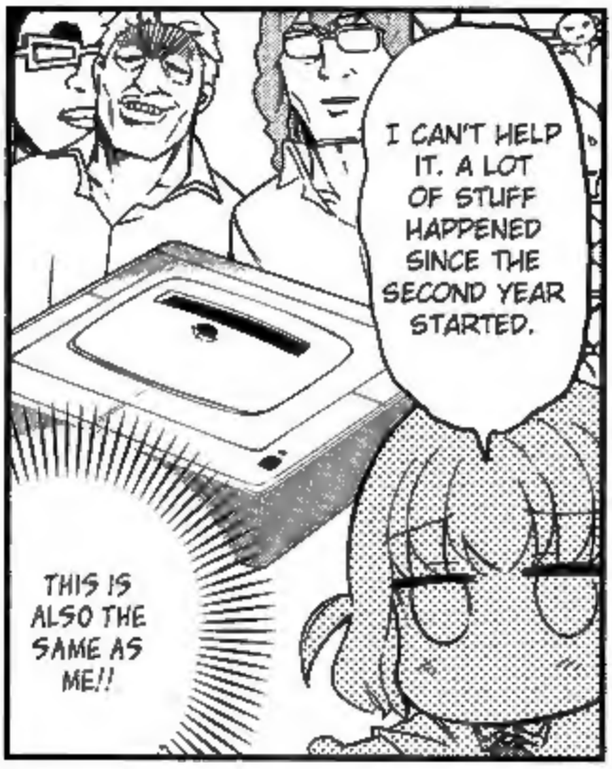
BUT I CAN MANAGE...
.....
W...WELL, THIS PERSON I'M TALKING ABOUT DOESN'T SEEM REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT STUDYING...

Game Creation Club (Temporary)
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, NONE OF THE CLUBROOMS CAN BE USED DURING TEST TIME...
SHOOT...
SNEAK SNEAK
AH.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
ARE THEY STILL PLAYING AROUND AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! FUKUNISHI-SAN WAS RIGHT TO WARN ME...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
THEY'RE HERE?!

THEY'RE STUDY-ING!!
Sorry!!

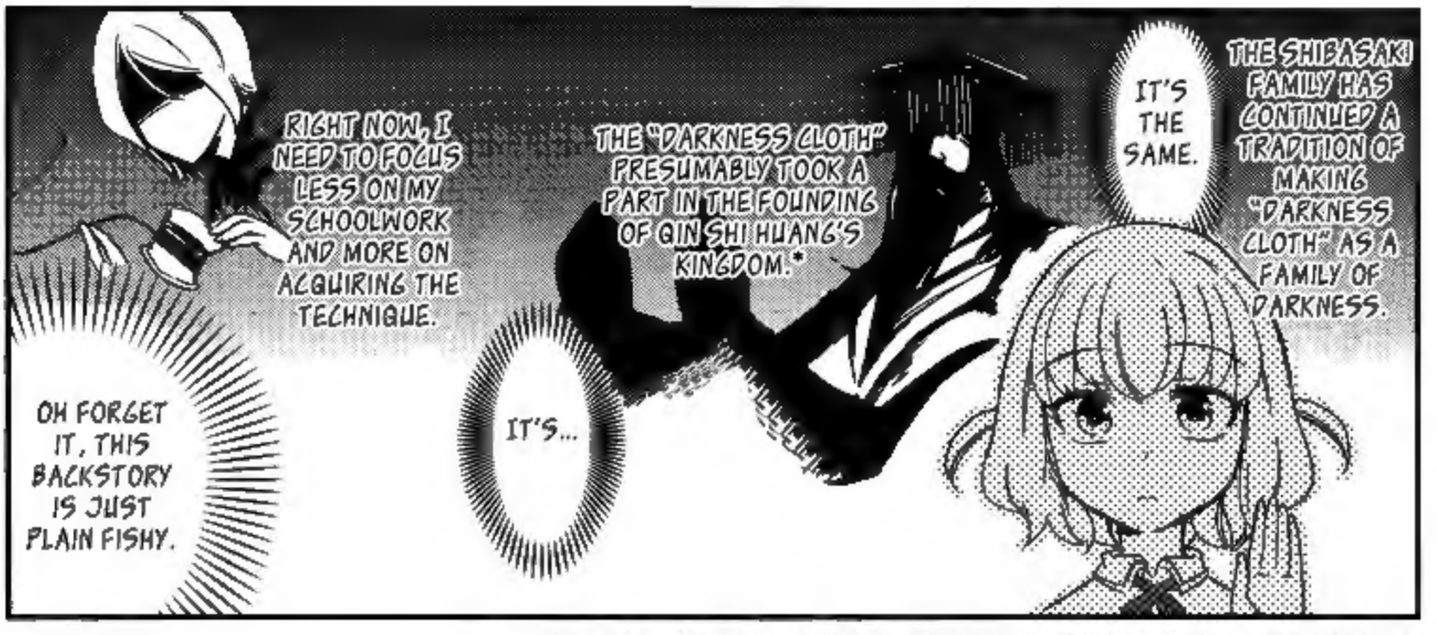
CHITOSE... I WANT TO PLAY.
Games...
NO CAN DO.

CHI-TOSE... I'M FIN-ISHED.
OH, REALLY? I'LL CHECK YOUR AN-SWERS.


I CAN'T HELP IT. A LOT OF STUFF HAPPENED SINCE THE SECOND YEAR STARTED.
THIS IS ALSO THE SAME AS ME!!

YOUR GRADES HAVE LOWERED DRASTICALLY SINCE YOU'VE STARTED YOUR SECOND YEAR, AND IT'LL HAVE A BAD EFFECT IN YOUR FUTURE COURSES IF YOU DON'T GET 'EM BACK UP.
AUU.
THAT'S...THE SAME AS ME!!

MY ACADEMICS DO NOT MATTER.
YOU SEE, WHEN I GRADUATE FROM THIS SCHOOL, I WILL INHERIT MY FAMILY BUSINESS.
THAT'S THE SAME THING FUKUNISHI-SAN SAID!!
WHY...?
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE FINE EVEN IF MY ACADEMICS ARE BAD.
!!

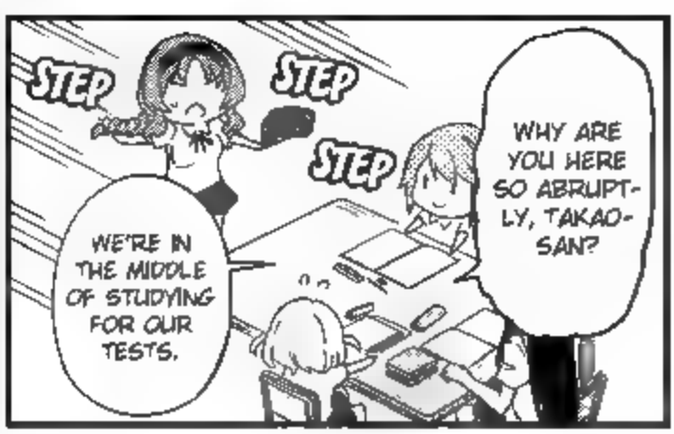

RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO FOCUS LESS ON MY SCHOOLWORK AND MORE ON ACQUIRING THE TECHNIQUE.
OH FORGET IT, THIS BACKSTORY IS JUST PLAIN FISHY.
THE "DARKNESS CLOTH" PRESUMABLY TOOK A PART IN THE FOUNDING OF QIN SHI HUANG'S KINGDOM.*
IT'S...
IT'S THE SAME.
THE SHIBASAKI FAMILY HAS CONTINUED A TRADITION OF MAKING "DARKNESS CLOTH" AS A FAMILY OF DARKNESS.

10

Note: Qin Shi Huang was the King of the state of Qin in China from 246 to 221 BC.

FUKUNISHI-SAN DID THIS?!
FUKUNI-SHI-SAN DID EVERY-THING YOU JUST DID!!

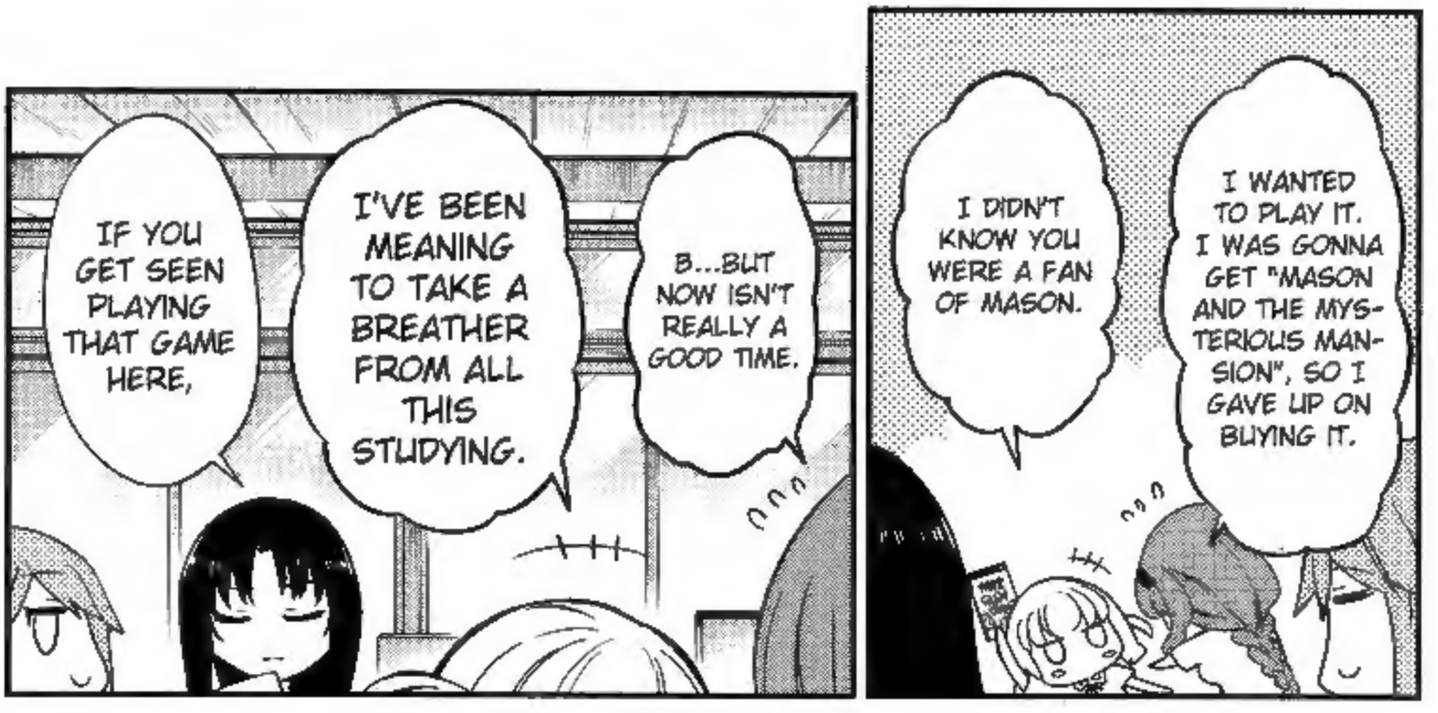
STEP


STEP
STEP
STEP
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF STUDYING FOR OUR TESTS.
WHY ARE YOU HERE SO ABRUPT-LY, TAKAO-SAN?

11

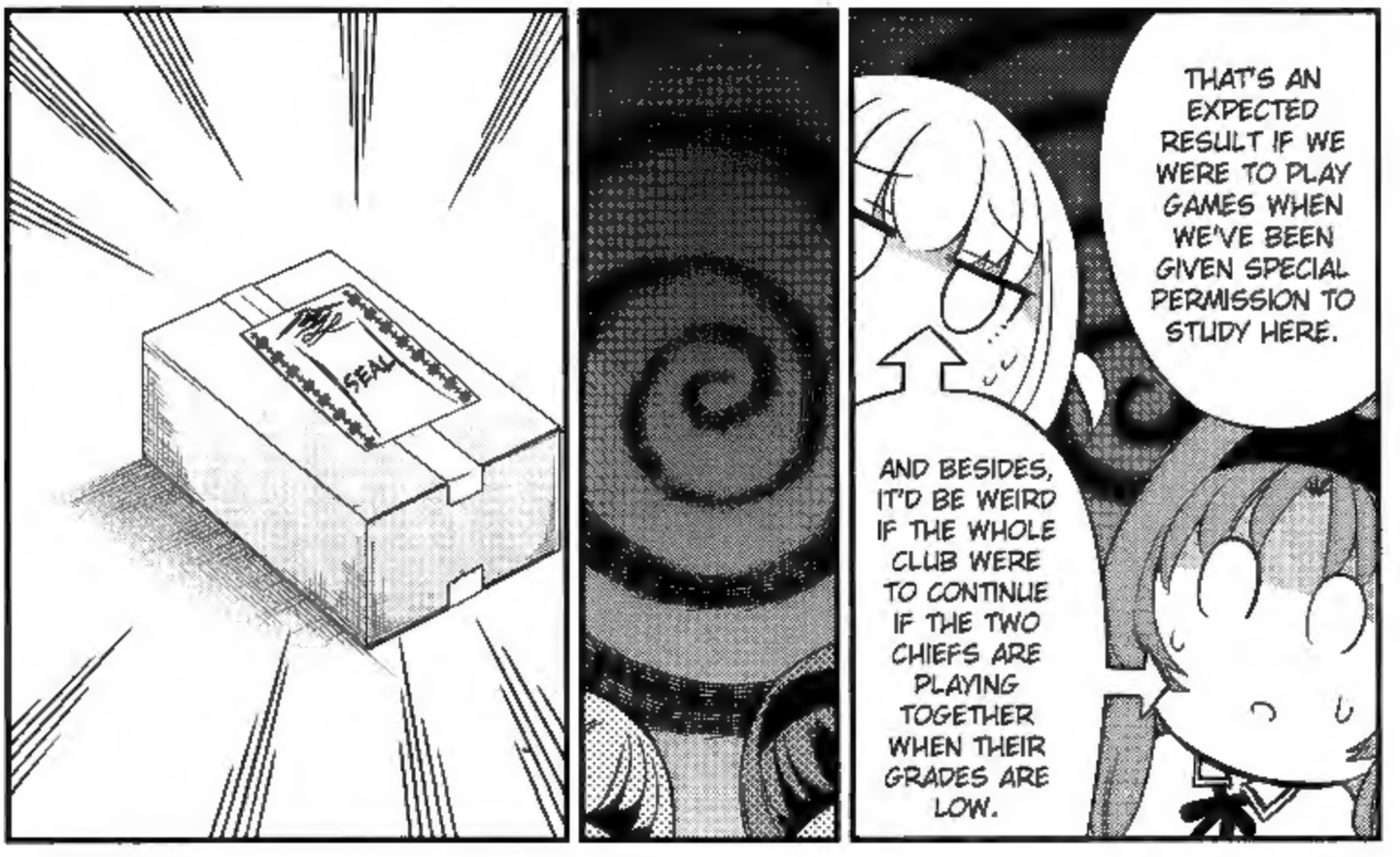
Big Excitement Waifhoi Posters
THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT TODAY, ISN'T IT♪
WAIT, NO... EH?! THAT'S ALREADY RE-LEASED?!

FIDGET
AH . WE...
WE DON'T GET THIS KIND OF CHANCE OFTEN, SO.
FIDGET
CAN WE STU-
OH, I GET IT!

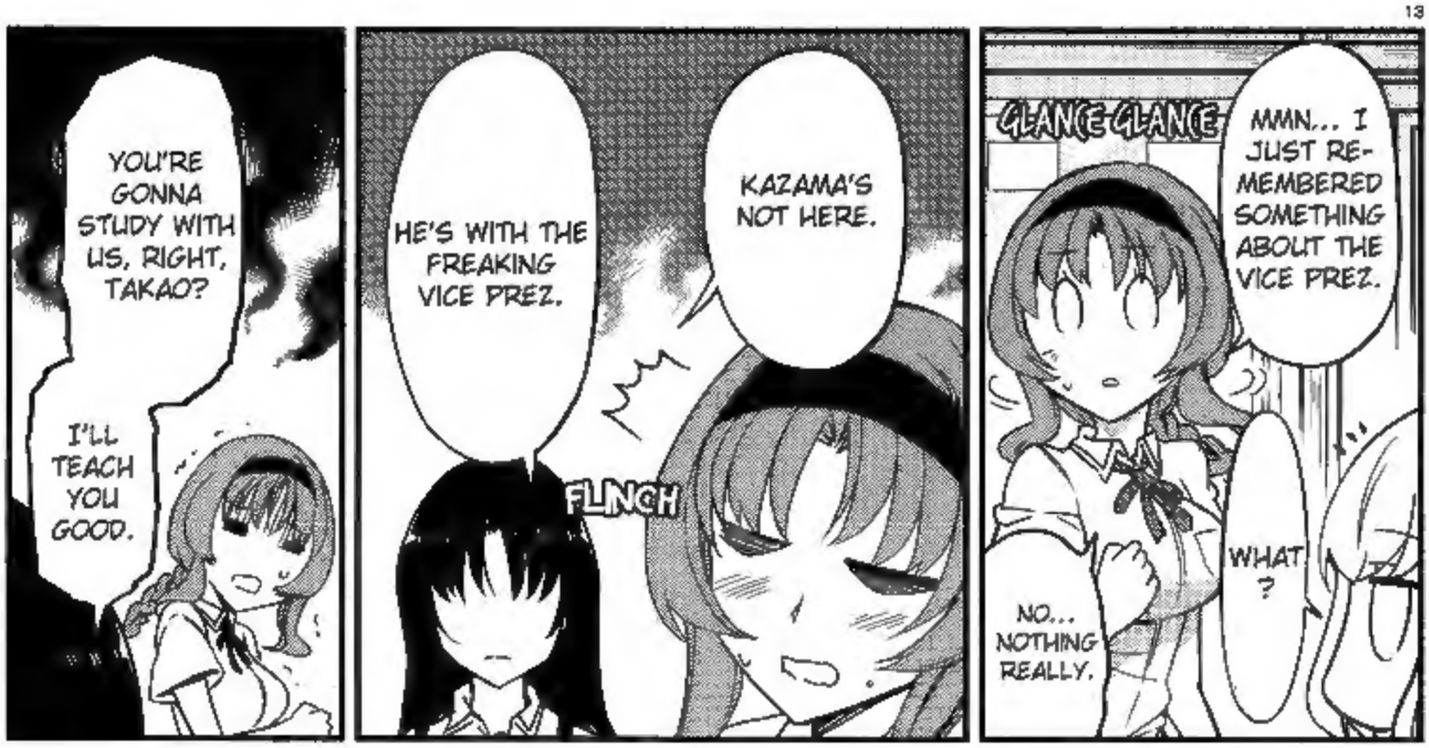

IF YOU GET SEEN PLAYING THAT GAME HERE,
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TAKE A BREATHER FROM ALL THIS STUDYING.
B...BUT NOW ISN'T REALLY A GOOD TIME.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A FAN OF MASON.
I WANTED TO PLAY IT. I WAS GONNA GET "MASON AND THE MYSTERIOUS MANSION", SO I GAVE UP ON BUYING IT.

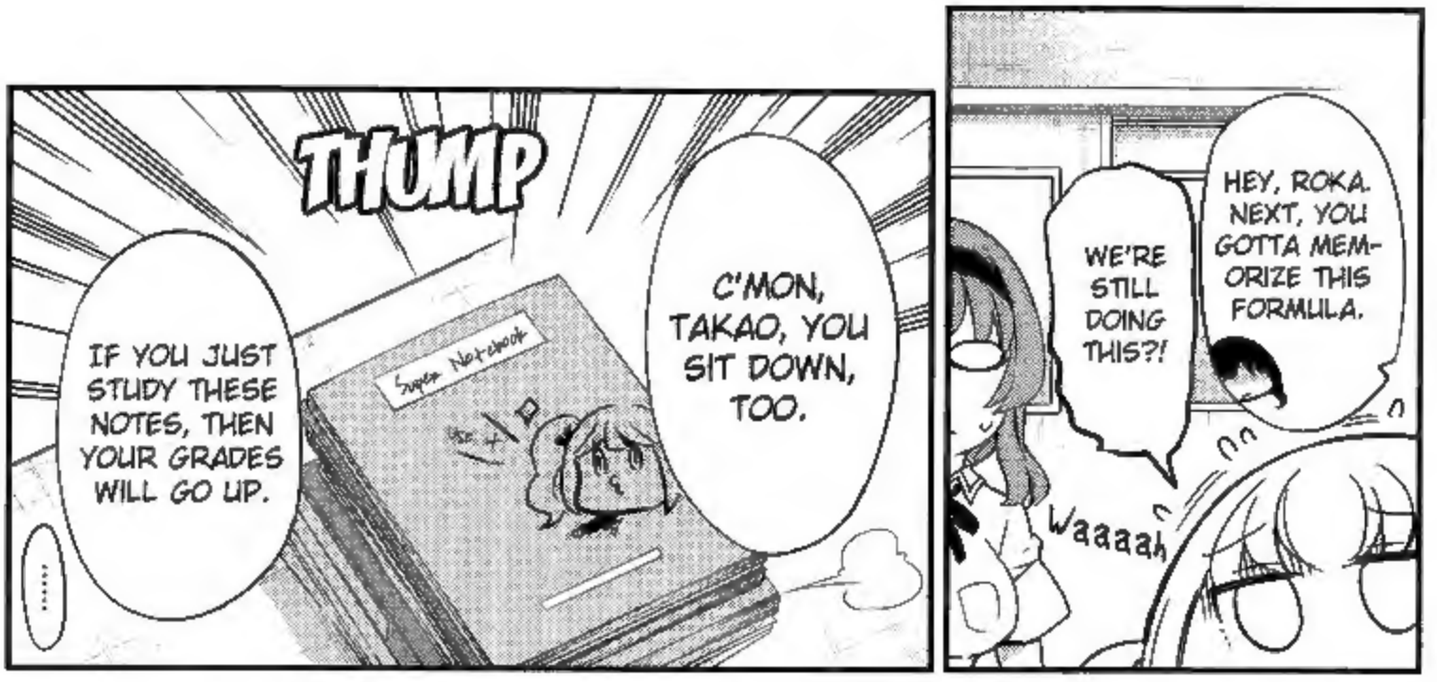
!!
GLARE...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THIS CLUBROOM ANYMORE.

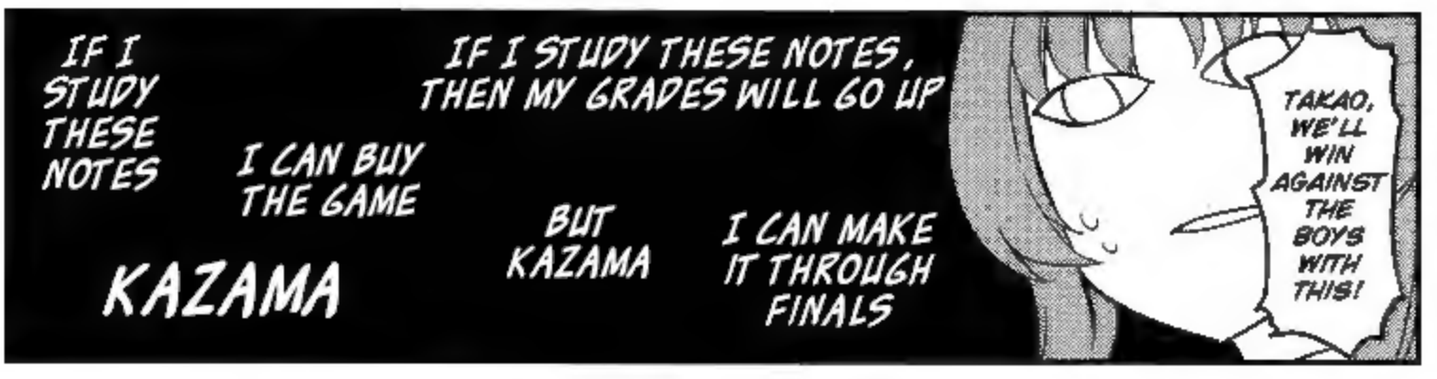
12

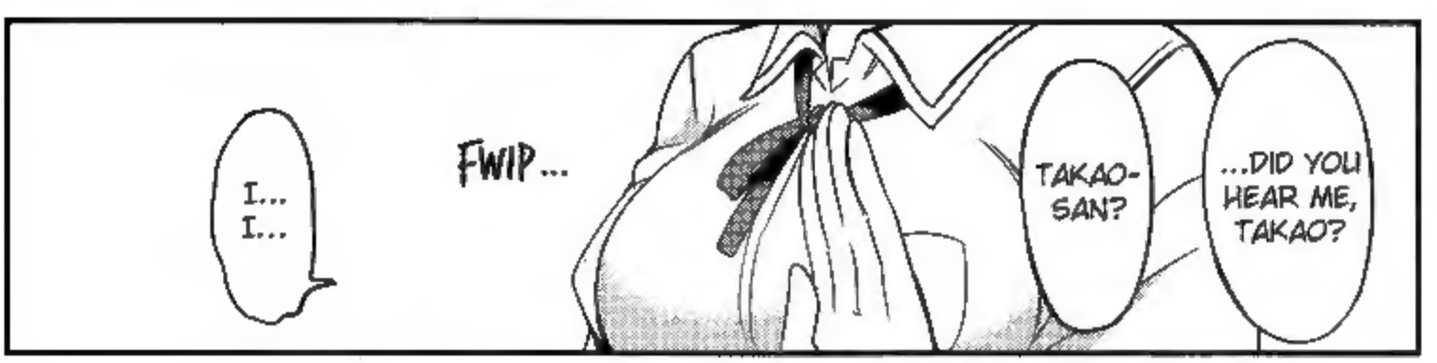

SEAL
THAT'S AN EXPECTED RESULT IF WE WERE TO PLAY GAMES WHEN WE'VE BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO STUDY HERE.
AND BESIDES, IT'D BE WEIRD IF THE WHOLE CLUB WERE TO CONTINUE IF THE TWO CHIEFS ARE PLAYING TOGETHER WHEN THEIR GRADES ARE LOW.

I MUST NEVER EVER LOSE TO THE VICE PREZ!
VICE PREZ ?!
I'VE NEVER NEGLECTED MY ACADEMICS...
WELL, SHE IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, SO SHE CAN'T EXACTLY NEGLECT HER ACADEMICS.
DON'T YOU THINK PREZ IS ACTING UNUSUALLY STRICT?
WHISPER WHISPER
THE IDEA OF HIM GETTING BETTER GRADES THAN ME JUST MAKES MY HAIR STAND ON END...
EH? ARE YOU SERIOUS, PREZ? YOU SCORED LOWER THAN ME?
MAYBE I SHOULD BE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT INSTEAD?
PEEK
.....


MMN... I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ABOUT THE VICE PREZ.
GLANCE GLANCE
WHAT?
NO... NOTHING REALLY.
KAZAMA'S NOT HERE.
HE'S WITH THE FREAKING VICE PREZ.
FLINCH
YOU'RE GONNA STUDY WITH US, RIGHT, TAKAO?
I'LL TEACH YOU GOOD.







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